

REMARKS

With the entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Favorable consideration is requested.

In line with the helpful comments of the Examiner, applicant has amended the claims to place them in more conventional U.S. patent claim format. For item 5(a) in the Office Action, claim 2 has been amended in line with the specification, e.g., page 4, lines 24-25 of the PCT application. The new claims simply move subject matter from the claims from which they depend. No new matter has been added by the claim amendments.

In addition, the Abstract and specification have been amended in line with the helpful comments of the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

Applicant submits that the Abstract, specification and claim amendments render moot the objections, Section 112 rejections, and Section 101 rejection.

Turning to the prior art rejections, claims 1-7 and 9-13 stand rejected as allegedly being obvious over Knoll (U.S. Patent 6,450,972) in view of Nicholas (U.S. Patent 5,433,708). Claim 8 stands objected to as allegedly being obvious over Knoll as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Ogawa (U.S. Patent 5,846,210). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons. (Applicant also notes that claim 6 contains allowable subject matter because there has been no prima facie case of obviousness asserted against claim 6.)

The rejection fails to present a prima face case of obviousness. The claimed invention clearly includes the key features of “detecting” **“the leakage current”** and

“transferring the leakage current” “to a converter” to “convert the leakage current” “into corresponding pressure values ...” The primary reference, Knoll, nowhere discloses or suggests these features or the use of any leakage current.

Simply stated, Knoll does not use leakage current. Instead, and in contrast to the claimed invention, the Knoll reference is based on capacitance measurements to reflect pressure values. This difference of parameters is fundamental. The subject application itself discusses the differences. See, e.g., the paragraph bridging pages 6-7 of the subject application. As correctly stated in the application, the use of leakage current instead of capacitance provides a more accurate pressure value. This approach is new and non obvious. As a result, the claimed invention is patentable over the cited prior art because neither Knoll nor any of the secondary references disclose or suggest the use of leakage current in the claimed method. This same reasoning applies to all of the claims because all of the claims include these critical features.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

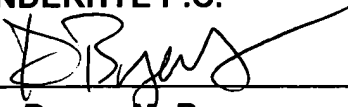
If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the undersigned can be contacted at 703-816-4009.

GLOCKER et al
U.S. App. 10552074

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Byers', is written over a horizontal line.

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